(b) the price of the natural rubber produced in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the floor price of natural rubber produced in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) STC was authorised to import 30,000 MTs of natural rubber upto June, 1989. Out of this 27005 MTs have been imported so far.

The release price during April-June 1989 was Rs. 23,573 PMT ex-godown Madras and from 10th July, 1989 the same is Rs. 27,400 PMT ex-godown, Madras.

(b) The prevailing price of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the Kottayam market is Rs. 25,000 per tonne as on 20th July, 1989.

(c) In view of the present level of prices which are sufficiently remunerative, Govt. does not consider it necessary to fix any floor price.

Payment of subsidy to coffee cultivators

1017. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outstanding amount of coffee subsidy to be paid to the cultivators; and

(b) by when this amount is likely to be paid to the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and

(b) The claims of Rs. 12.78 lakhs for payment of subsidies are pending with the Coffee Board. The claims will be settled after the spot inspection of the areas concerned is completed.

Pending applications of freedom fighters from Kerala

1018. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of applications from the freedom fighters of Kerala are pending in his Ministry for grant of pension;

(b) if so, what is the number of applications pending as on 30th June, 1989; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to finalise these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No timely application is pending from the freedom fighters of Kerala in this Ministry for grant of pension

(b) and (c) As on 30th June, 1989 one case received hroutgh the Government of Kerala in December, 1985 was pending for want of certain clarifications from them. Clarifications have been received from the Government of Kerala and pension has since been sanctioned to the applicant.

Steps to protect ozone layer

1019. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a party to the Vienna Convention and the Motreal Protocol for Commonwealth countries to protect the ozone layer; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect ozone layer, which is being destroyed by various modern scientific processes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.